

AMENDMENTS**In the Claims**

Claims 2-3, 7, 12, and 21 are objected to.

5 Please amend claims 1, 12, 14, 22, and 26 as shown herein.

Please add new claims 30-33 as shown herein.

Claims 1-33 are pending and are listed following:

1. (currently amended) A system, comprising:

10 a mobile computing device that includes one or more components each configured to perform a function in response to an input from an associated external device; and

an input/output module configured for installation within a housing inset of a housing of the mobile computing device, the input/output module configured

15 to interlock within the housing inset to facilitate portability of the mobile computing device with the input/output module installed, the input/output module including one or more input/output connectors configured to interface one or more associated external devices with the one or more components in the mobile computing device, the input/output module further configured to pass one or 20 more unmodified signals between the one or more components and the one or more associated external devices.

2. **(previously presented)** A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the mobile computing device includes a second component configured to perform a second function in response to an input from a second external device, the system further comprising:

5 a second input/output module configured to be interchangeable with the input/output module and including at least one input/output connector configured to interface the second external device with the second component, the input/output modules having at least one different connector; and

10 wherein the second input/output module is configured to pass one or more unmodified signals between the second external device and the second component.

3. **(previously presented)** A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the mobile computing device includes a second component configured to perform 15 a second function in response to an input from a second external device, the system further comprising:

20 a second input/output module configured to be interchangeable with the input/output module and including at least first and second input/output connectors to interface both external devices with the mobile computing device; and

wherein the second input/output module is configured to pass one or more unmodified signals between the one or more components and the one or more associated external devices.

4. (previously presented) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein:

the input/output module includes multiple input/output connectors each configured to interface an external device with the mobile computing device, the 5 input/output module further configured to pass at least one input from an external device unmodified to a component in the mobile computing device; and

the input/output module includes a signal processing component to process an input from an external device, the input/output module further configured to pass at least one processed input from the input/output module to the mobile 10 computing device.

5. (original) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the input/output module comprises one or more of:

15 a CRT/DVI (digital video input) input/output connector;
a parallel input/output connector;
a serial input/output connector;
a USB (universal serial bus) input/output connector; and
a PS/2 (personal system) input/output connector.

20 6. (original) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the input/output module comprises one or more of:

a CRT/DVI (digital video input) input/output connector;
an IEEE 1394 input/output connector;
a TV-out connector;
25 an S-Video out connector; and
at least one USB (universal serial bus) input/output connector.

7. (original) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein:

the input/output module comprises one or more of:

a CRT/DVI (digital video input) input/output connector;

a parallel input/output connector;

5 a serial input/output connector;

a USB (universal serial bus) input/output connector;

a PS/2 (personal system) input/output connector;

the system further comprises a second input/output module configured to be interchangeable with the input/output module, the second input/output module

10 comprising one or more of:

a CRT/DVI (digital video input) input/output connector;

an IEEE 1394 input/output connector;

a TV-out connector;

an S-Video out connector; and

15 at least one USB (universal serial bus) input/output connector.

8. (previously presented) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein

the mobile computing device does not allocate system resources for the one or more components that can not be interfaced with an external device via the

20 input/output module.

9. (previously presented) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein

the mobile computing device is configured to reserve system resources that would otherwise be allocated to interface the one or more components with an

25 associated external device via the input/output module if the input/output module does not have an input/output connector for the external device.

10. (previously presented) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the input/output module includes an input/output connector configuration that the mobile computing device can obtain from the input/output module.

5 11. (previously presented) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the input/output module includes a memory device to store an input/output connector configuration, and wherein the mobile computing device can obtain the input/output connector configuration stored in the memory device.

10 12. (currently amended) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the ~~input/output module includes~~ a module connector ~~having~~ includes a pin configuration that can be decoded by the mobile computing device to determine an input/output connector configuration on the input/output module.

15 13. (previously presented) A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the mobile computing device de-allocates system resources from the one or more components that can not be interfaced with an external device via the input/output module.

14. (currently amended) At least one interchangeable input/output module configured for installation within a housing inset of a mobile computer, the interchangeable input/output module configured to interlock within the housing inset to facilitate portability of the mobile computer with the interchangeable input/output module installed, the interchangeable input/output module comprising one or more input/output connectors supported by a module housing, each of which ~~are~~ is configured to interface an external device with a component in the mobile computer, at least one of the input/output connectors being configured to pass unmodified signals between its associated external device and its associated component.

15. 15. (previously presented) At least one interchangeable input/output module as recited in claim 14, wherein the module housing is configured to be removably attached to the mobile computer.

16. (previously presented) At least one interchangeable input/output module as recited in claim 14, further comprising:
multiple input/output connectors each configured to interface an external device with a component in the mobile computer; and
20 a signal processing component to process an input from an external device, the interchangeable input/output module further configured to pass at least one unmodified input from an external device to an associated component in the mobile computer, and further configured to pass at least one processed input from an external device to an associated component in the mobile computer.

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17. (original) At least one interchangeable input/output module as recited in claim 14, wherein the one or more input/output connectors comprise one or more of:

5 a CRT/DVI (digital video input) input/output connector;
a parallel input/output connector;
a serial input/output connector;
a USB (universal serial bus) input/output connector; and
a PS/2 (personal system) input/output connector.

10 18. (original) At least one interchangeable input/output module as recited in claim 14, wherein the one or more input/output connectors comprise one or more of:

15 a CRT/DVI (digital video input) input/output connector;
an IEEE 1394 input/output connector;
a TV-out connector;
an S-Video out connector; and
at least one USB (universal serial bus) input/output connector.

19. (previously presented) At least one interchangeable
20 input/output module as recited in claim 14, further comprising an input/output connector configuration identifier from which the mobile computer can obtain an input/output connector configuration of the input/output module.

20. (previously presented) At least one interchangeable input/output module as recited in claim 19, wherein the input/output connector configuration identifier comprises a memory storage device configured to store the input/output connector configuration and communicate the input/output connector configuration to the mobile computer.

21. (original) At least one interchangeable input/output module as recited in claim 19, wherein the input/output connector configuration identifier is decoded from a pin configuration in the input/output module.

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22. (currently amended) A method, comprising:
providing an input/output module configured for installation within a housing of a mobile computer that contains multiple components each of which interface with different external devices, the input/output module including a module connector having a pin configuration that can be decoded by the mobile computer to determine an input/output connector configuration on the input/output module; and

providing multiple different input/output connectors supported by the input/output module, at least one of the input/output connectors being configured to couple an external device and an associated component in the mobile computer and pass signals in an unmodified form between the external device and its associated component.

23. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 22, further comprising establishing a connection between the input/output module and the mobile computer that contains at least one component that can be interfaced through the input/output module to an associated external device.

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24. (original) A method as recited in claim 22, wherein the input/output connectors comprise one or more of the following:

- a CRT/DVI (digital video input) input/output connector;
- a parallel input/output connector;
- 10 a serial input/output connector;
- a USB (universal serial bus) input/output connector; and
- a PS/2 (personal system) input/output connector.

25. (original) A method as recited in claim 22, wherein the input/output connectors comprise one or more of the following:

- a CRT/DVI (digital video input) input/output connector;
- an IEEE 1394 input/output connector;
- a TV-out connector;
- an S-Video out connector; and
- 20 at least one USB (universal serial bus) input/output connector.

26. (currently amended) A method, comprising:
decoding a pin configuration of a module connector on an interchangeable input/output module to determine an input/output connector configuration on the interchangeable input/output module;

5 receiving an input from an external device via an input/output connector on ~~an~~ the interchangeable input/output module that is installed within a housing of a mobile computing device; and
passing the input in an unmodified form through the input/output module to a component in the mobile computing device.

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27. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 26, further comprising:

receiving a second input from a second external device with a second input/output connector on the interchangeable input/output module;

15 processing the second input with a signal processing component in the interchangeable input/output module to generate a processed input; and
passing the processed input from the signal processing component in the input/output module to a component in the mobile computing device.

20 28. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 26, further comprising communicating an input/output connector configuration on the interchangeable input/output module to the mobile computing device.

29. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 26, further comprising reserving system resources that would otherwise be allocated to interface a mobile computing device component with an external device via the interchangeable input/output module if the interchangeable input/output module 5 does not have an input/output connector for the external device.

Please add new claims 30-33 as follows:

30. (new) A system, comprising:

10 a mobile computing device that includes one or more components each configured to perform a function in response to an input from an associated external device; and

15 an input/output module configured for installation within a housing of the mobile computing device, the input/output module including one or more input/output connectors configured to interface one or more associated external devices with the one or more components in the mobile computing device, the input/output module further including a module connector having a pin configuration that can be decoded by the mobile computing device to determine an input/output connector configuration on the input/output module, and the

20 input/output module further configured to pass one or more unmodified signals between the one or more components and the one or more associated external devices.

31. (new) A system, comprising:

a mobile computing device that includes one or more components each configured to perform a function in response to an input from an associated external device; and

5 an input/output module configured for installation within a housing of the mobile computing device, the input/output module further configured to interface one or more associated external devices with the one or more components in the mobile computing device, the input/output module including a module connector having a pin configuration that can be decoded by the mobile computing device

10 10 to determine an input/output connector configuration on the input/output module.

32. (new) At least one interchangeable input/output module configured for installation within a mobile computer, the interchangeable input/output module comprising:

15 one or more input/output connectors supported by a module housing, each of which is configured to interface an external device with a component in the mobile computer, at least one of the input/output connectors being configured to pass unmodified signals between its associated external device and its associated component; and

20 an input/output connector configuration identifier from which the mobile computer can obtain an input/output connector configuration of the input/output module, the input/output connector configuration identifier being decoded from a pin configuration in the input/output module.

33. (new) At least one interchangeable input/output module configured for installation within a mobile computer, the interchangeable input/output module comprising:

- one or more input/output connectors each of which is configured to
- 5 interface an external device with a component in the mobile computer; and
- a configuration identifier decoded from a pin configuration in the input/output module to identify an input/output connector configuration of the input/output module to the mobile computer.